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SECDEF

INFO: AMEMB BONN

PERSONAL FOR SECY McNAMARA FROM GEN NORSTAD.

INFO: PERSONAL FOR AMB DOWLING FROM GEN NORSTAD.

Chancellor Adenauer visited this headquarters this morning, where he was warmly received by representatives of the soldiers, sailors and airmen of all of the NATO countries. He clearly showed that he enjoyed the occasion. After a brief ceremony at the entrance, he came into my office for a talk before meeting with members of the staff. In addition to the Chancellor and myself, present were von Brentano and von Walther, the German Permanent Representative to NATO.

I opened the conversation by stating that President Kennedy had spoken very warmly of him and of his support for our common

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Feb 1961

LAURIS NORSTAD, General, USAF

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S. W. DOWNEY
Colonel, U. S. Army
Executive to SACEUR

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by *SLC*

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effort and had asked me to express his best wishes. The Chancellor stated that he was pleased and moved.

The Chancellor moved quickly to the subjects he wished to discuss, the first being the status of what he called our "Lake Como Talks." He stated that he continued to feel that it was of the greatest importance that we make some progress in increasing the NATO responsibility and authority in the atomic field as discussed at that meeting, and suggested that the talks here in Paris during the last two days gave added weight to this in his mind. I responded by saying generally that the subject had been raised briefly when I was in Washington, and that I knew it was being considered as a matter of some urgency and with a completely open mind.

He was very impressed with the statement of the President on NATO made at the press conference earlier this week and said that he wanted to tell me very confidentially that he had heard directly from the President and that he was warmly appreciative of this interest. He also noted that Acheson was making some studies on NATO and, since he knew Acheson, he was in the process of writing to him.

He asked if I thought that the French cancelation of the

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Sahara atomic tests indicated a change in policy on the part of de Gaulle, particularly in the atomic field. I told him that I had no basis for reaching such a conclusion and considered that the reasons might be more political, perhaps generally based on the African reaction to earlier tests. In reply to a question as to his own view, he said that the cancelation of an established program of tests, which he understood this to be, could very well indicate a change in policy, or at least a desire to please the NATO Allies and perhaps particularly the United States at this time.

He again recalled our meeting at Lake Como, where he had spoken very frankly on Franco-German relations and particularly on his personal relationship with de Gaulle. He stated that there had been a very marked change in de Gaulle since that time, de Gaulle now being more willing to listen to the other partners. Further, de Gaulle had said with sincerity and warmth that a good relationship between France and Germany was absolutely essential and that he wished to maintain the closest and warmest relationship with Adenauer personally. He also stated his belief in NATO and desire to support the Alliance.

Adenauer then reverted to the atomic control question and stated that it was even more important to make progress in this

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field because it gave an outlet to France and a basis for a better relationship between France and NATO.

Adenauer made several broad references to the meetings of the last two or three days, the general sense of them being that there had been some change on the part of de Gaulle, as indicated above, but little or none on his part.

Adenauer then asked me for my views as to Spaak's successor. I told him very frankly that from the very first reports of Spaak's leaving, I had felt that Stikker would be acceptable to the greatest number of NATO countries, would provide continuity since he was a member of the Council and, because of his personal characteristics, would add some quiet strength to the North Atlantic Council and its efforts. I reported Stikker's statement to me of two weeks ago that he had just come from The Netherlands, where he had had a complete physical examination, and the doctor had told him that he was fit to carry on. The Chancellor expressed great satisfaction with this. His final word as he left the building was to thank me for the very constructive talk we had had and particularly for the good word I had given him on Stikker.

Because of State's particular interest in this field I request that a copy of this message be forwarded to STATE for the

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PERSONAL ATTENTION of Secretary Rusk. However, since the conversation is based upon a personal relationship I hope that distribution will be very closely held in both Departments.

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